Ronald E. McNair
Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

About the Program
-A federal TRIO program.
-Funded by the U.S. Department of Education.
-Two-year adventure program involving research and scholarly activity.
-Prepares 27 (two cohorts) eligible undergraduate students for doctoral studies.

Learning opportunities and Research Activities
-Opportunities for research or other scholarly activities designed to prepare students with effective preparation for doctoral study.
-Summer internships.
-Seminars and other educational activities designed to prepare students for doctoral study.
-Tutoring.
-Academic counseling.
-Activities designed to assist students participating in the project in securing admission to and financial assistance for enrollment in graduate programs.

Legislation
-Section 1070a-15. Postbaccalaureate achievement program authority.
-(a) Program authority: The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the “Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program” that shall be designed to provide disadvantaged college students with effective preparation for doctoral study.”

Key Deliverables (Prior Experience Points)
-Number of participants – Whether the program provided services to no less than the approved number of participants (3 points).
-Research and scholarly activities – Whether the program met or exceeded its objective for providing participants served during the project year with appropriate research and scholarly activities each academic year (3 points).
-Graduate school enrollment – whether the program met or exceeded its objective with regard to the acceptance and enrollment in graduate programs of participants served during the project year who complete the baccalaureate program during the academic year (3 points).
-Continued enrollment in graduate school – whether the program met or exceeded its objective with regard to continued enrollment in graduate school of prior participants (4 points).
-Doctoral degree attainment – Whether the program met or exceeded its objective with regard to the attainment of doctoral level degrees of prior participants in the specified number of years (2 points).

uwec.edu/McNair  |  2134 Old Library  |  McNair@uwec.edu  |  (715) 836-4912
Eligibility
Requirements:
- UW-Eau Claire student,
- Potential and desire to pursue a graduate program leading to a research doctorate,
- Must be nominated by a UW-Eau Claire faculty or academic staff member (typically the instructor with whom one would pursue collaborative research),
- Minimum standing of rising sophomore with a GPA of 2.75 or greater,
- EITHER (a) a low-income AND first-generation student
  OR
  (b) a member of a group that is underrepresented by race/ethnicity among recipients of research doctorates,
- U. S. citizen or U. S. resident alien, and
- Apply through BPLogix.

Profile of doctoral degree earners is heavily skewed by class, income, and race/ethnicity. In 2013, less than 20% of doctoral degrees went to first-generation college students.

Regulations
- 2/3 students must be low-income individuals who are first-generation college students.
- Remaining persons may be from a group underrepresented in graduate education including:
  - African American
  - Latino-American
  - Alaska Natives
  - Native Hawaiians
  - Native American Pacific Islander
McNair Program at UW-Eau Claire
- Since 2000
- Current grant Cycle: 2012 – 2017
- Annual Budget of $231,448
- 187 scholars
- 65 Masters degrees
- 40 Doctorate degrees
- 76 graduate institutions
- 7 countries
- Strong track-record of program success
- Strong mentors
- Exceptional scholars
- Institutional support
- Ideal UW campus for undergraduate research (ORSP)
- Most diversified learning community on campus

Program Mission aligned with mission of UW-Eau Claire
“We foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy, and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.”

Program Mission Aligned with UW-Eau Claire Guidepost Goals
100% All students will have a high-impact learning experience
90% We will retain 90% of our students to their second year
50% We will graduate half of our students within four years
20% We will increase enrollment of students of color and close the opportunity gap

Why Become a McNair Scholar?
- A two-year adventure-investment program with a lifelong impact.
- Curriculum-based learning community.
- Receive intense mentoring in a nurturing and supportive environment.
- Participate in four McNair Seminars.
- Undertake collaborative research with UW-Eau Claire faculty members.
- Participate in a paid Summer Research Institute between year 1 and 2.
- Present research findings in professional conferences.
- Publish scholarly articles.
- Receive assistance with graduate school selection and application.
- GRE preparation.
- Learn about financial aid, fellowships, grant opportunities.
- Graduate school application fee accommodations.

- After graduation, keep in touch with McNair Program as progress through graduate school towards the goal of earning a doctoral degree.
- Ph.D.s enjoy a wide array of research based careers.
- Ph.D.s earn on average $1,500,000 more than baccalaureate degree holders.

Leveling the Playing Field in Graduate Education Since 2000

![Expected Lifetime Earnings by Age and Educational Attainment (2013)](image)

![Median Annual Income for Full-Time Workers before Tax Income (2013)](image)
Being a McNair Mentor

- UW-Eau Claire Faculty are integral to the success of the McNair Scholars and the McNair Program.
- Four steps to successfully mentoring a McNair Scholar:

1. Nominate:
   - UW-Eau Claire is the only Wisconsin McNair Program to depend on Faculty Nominations.
   - This model allows Faculty members to identify promising, academically-talented students and commit themselves to the development of a prospective McNair Scholar.

2. Formulate:
   - In the fall and spring of the Junior Year, Mentors assist the McNair Scholar with crafting a research statement outlining their McNair Summer Research Institute project and help their Scholar identify programs and institutions that are appropriate for their long-term research interests.

3. Collaborate:
   - During the Summer Research Institute, the McNair Mentor supervises a three-credit independent study class during which the McNair Scholar conducts the research which was outlined in their Faculty-Student Collaborative Research proposal.
   - Mentors receive a modest honorarium for supervising their McNair Scholar’s SRI project.

4. Advocate:
   - During the fall and spring of the Senior Year, the McNair Mentor:
     - helps the McNair Scholar analyze the results of their collaborative research
     - assists with the preparation of oral or poster presentations for the McNair Scholars’ regional conference, the UW-Eau Claire Senior Scholars’ Colloquia
     - reviews and edits the Scholar’s draft manuscript for Astra: The McNair Scholars’ Journal
     - writes letters of recommendation in support of their Scholar’s applications to graduate programs and appropriate national and international fellowships and scholarships.

Critical Role of Nomination Process

- Mentor plays central role in our ability to deliver and hence keep the cherished McNair Program in UW-Eau Claire.
- Quality of scholars that you nominate is perhaps the most significant determinant of the number of points that our program is awarded by the Dept. of Education, and hence our probability of continued funding.
- Your perception of a prospective scholar’s potential and motivation to:
  Apply
  Enter
  Continue
Successfully finish graduate school, especially Doctoral... is critical...

Application Process

1. Nomination form (“faculty form” on website)
2. Prospective scholar form (“student form” on website)

Nomination form

- Go to www.uwec.edu/mcnair.
- Click on “application process” to the left.
- Click on “Faculty Form”.
- Log into the BPLogix system.
- Complete and press the “submit” button.
- You will immediately receive an automated e-mail.

Prospective Scholar Form

- Go to www.uwec.edu/mcnair.
- Click on “application process” to the left.
- Click on “Student Form”.
- Log into the BPLogix system.
- Complete parts A and B. Attach all necessary documents.
- Press the “submit” button.
- Receive automated e-mail with attachment entitled “eligibility”. Print this attachment.
- Fill out eligibility section in order to complete application.
- Get required signatures.
- Submit completed eligibility section to the McNair program office.

Rewards of Being a McNair Mentor

The rewards for mentoring a McNair Scholar are significant:
- McNair Mentors help shape the development of their discipline and foster the next generation of researchers doing cutting edge work; and
- Lastly, by advancing the work of our Alumni, McNair Mentors bring acclaim and prestige to UW-Eau Claire and our faculty.